

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

Operations Division Regulatory Branch

## SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TIME EXTENSION & MODIFICATION OF NOD-21 FOR WORK ON STATE REFUGES AND WMAS IN THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the general permit, originally issued by this district on January 21, 1983, has been modified and extended for 5 years until October 31, 2008. A copy of the general permit is enclosed.

In response to the public notice dated September 19, 2003, advertising the proposed time extension, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources recommended inclusion of a special condition requiring mitigation for unavoidable project impacts. Although mitigation for wetland impacts is required in practice, to make NOD-21 consistent with other general permits, a condition was included that requires applications for NOD-21 to include a mitigation plan, if applicable. This change can be found in condition c(1)on page 2 of the general permit. Condition c(1) was also modified to make it clear that a copy of the general permit is not a required part of the application package.

Because a water quality certification was issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for NOD-21, and a consistency determination covering NOD-21 was furnished by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, those two specific approvals were removed from condition i on page 3.

A required condition related to authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899 has been included as condition 1 on page 3.

All available information was considered in determining that the overall public interest would best be served by extending this general permit with the modifications described above.

Additional comments or suggestions for further modification of this general permit are solicited. Persons who become aware of problems or adverse impacts are requested to notify the Regulatory Branch of this district at the above address. This general permit will be suspended, revoked, or modified if it is shown to be in the public interest to do so.